



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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## Kirtland Youth Center wins national design award

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**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** – The Youth Center at Kirtland was selected for a Merit Award for design excellence by the U.S. Air Force Design Awards Program. The project was design by an Albuquerque firm, BPLW Architects and Engineers, Inc.

The awards presentation was made at the Annual Conference of the Society of American Military Engineers in Washington, D.C. Accepting the award were Bill J. Waters, chairman of the Board of

BPLW, 1st Lt. Randy

Whitcotton, 377th Civil Engineer Group, and Brigadier General Todd I. Stewart, commander, Civil Engineering, Air Force Materiel Command.

Major General Eugene A. Lupia, president of Society of American Military Engineers made the presentation.

The jury commented, “Totally fun and appealing with good space planning, includes classroom space for after school study.”

The bold creative design of the Youth Center has caused it to quickly become a landmark on the

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installation, and while the exterior form of the building is distinctive, it is the quality of the interior spaces that set the project apart. The interior design scheme focuses on functionality and fun.

BPLW Principal, Eugene A. Valentine, AIA, CCS and Project Architect, Maureen Walter, AIA, CCS, developed the design concept for the one story, 19,000 square-foot facility which supports programs for children ages 6 to 18. Located adjacent to a swimming pool and fitness center, the Youth Center completes a recreational complex and offers a variety of activities, as well as a safe, dynamic and comfortable environment at Kirtland.



The facility was created by the 377th Services Squadron at Kirtland. Wesley Furman and Joe Burwinkle, architects of the 377th CEG, were instrumental to the design and construction management of the project.

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**Note to editors:** For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton, (505) 846-4238/5991. DSN prefix is 246. Courtesy photos. From left to right are: Maj. Gen. Eugene A. Lupia, Bill J. Waters, 1st Lt. Randy Whitecotton and Brig. Gen. Todd I. Stewart. The images can be found at <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/exterior.jpg> [images/ywinners.jpg](http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/ywinners.jpg) and [images/ycounter.jpg](http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/ycounter.jpg)